

Date: May 18, 1987
Edition: 5 Star Final
Title: Prosecutor times it rightCharacter:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Chicago

Prosecutor times it right

Connelly meets double deadline

By Adrienne Drell

Vincent J. Connelly has never missed a deadline.

And he is keeping his record intact.

Connelly, 36, chief of the special prosecutions division, managed to complete final details on the massive 122-page indictment of former mayoral aide Clarence McClain and eight others exactly one day before leaving his job Friday.

By beating the deadline, the architect of the Operation Incubator investigation also complied with a federal judge's directive to indict McClain by today or explain why not.

Today, Connelly becomes a partner at the law firm of Mayer Brown & Platt, where he will specialize in litigation.

"It's sad but exciting to contemplate the new challenges," said Connelly, a tall, dapper prosecutor known for his charm and persua-

Vincent J. Connelly

New job: Connelly today becomes a partner at the law firm of Mayer Brown & Platt.

Previous job: Chief of special prosecutions division, U.S. attorney's office for the northern district of Illinois. He has spent the last 11 years in the prosecutor's office. His most visible achievement has been guiding the Operation Incubator investigation.

Vital statistics: Age, 36; born in Chicago and reared on the South Side; attended St. Patrick High School, 5900 W. Belmont; married with two children; undergraduate degree from Notre Dame University; 1975 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School; known for his charm and ability to persuade juries.



iveness before a jury.

During his 11 years in the prosecutor's office, Connelly, a 1975 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, has tried many complicated stock fraud cases and pioneered the use of racketeering statutes to convict owners of several South Side beauty schools.

But his most visible achievement has been shepherding the municipal investigation with the catchy

Operation Incubator title. It has resulted in the indictments of 15 people here, five of whom have been convicted.

Connelly worked closely with the FBI and Internal Revenue Service in its undercover procedures, tape-recording secret meetings among government informant Michael Raymond, politicians and influential businessmen. Connelly spent nights reviewing videotapes of the clandestine meetings.

It was Connelly who flew to Florida in 1985 to plead with magazine reporter Gaeton Fonzi not to publish a story about Raymond that would have jeopardized the ongoing investigation.

Once the project was revealed in December, 1985, Connelly and his boss, U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas, refused to comment. But they were severely criticized for leaking information on unindicted figures. Valukas explained that Fonzi had sold his materials to the Tribune Co. McClain filed several lawsuits alleging his constitutional rights were being violated. Most of the suits were dismissed.

Asked how he managed to synchronize his departure with Thursday's indictments, Connelly laughed and said, "Timing is everything."

ISIS ENTRY

TO BE ENTERED RECD ANALYST YES ☒ NO ☐ RETD ☐ *pac*

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